

Mideast arms talks end with little fanfare

DOHA (Agencies) — Israelis, Arabs and a support cast of nations from around the world ended three days of talks on Middle East arms control on Thursday without real progress, but both host and sponsor said they were not disappointed.

"How many years does it take for a dream to come true?" asked Qatar Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani.

Robert Einhorn, the representative of the United States which co-sponsors the arms control negotiations with Russia, spoke of an important human dimension.

"There was a much better understanding... greater comfort in talking to each other," he said of the delegations from Israel and 14 Arab states at the fifth round of the arms control panel. It is one of five sets of multilateral negotiations launched after the 1991 Madrid Middle East peace conference.

The sponsors had hoped this round would agree a long sought-after declaration of principles that would set the agenda for future negotiations on Middle East arms control and regional security.

But delegations at the conference failed to approve the declaration on Wednesday and it has been referred to a further meeting, at a place and time yet to be agreed.

Arab delegations led by Saudi Arabia objected to political clauses that implied an end of the state of war with Israel. They saw them as preempting the results of bilateral negotiations between Israel and immediate neighbours Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians.

The chief Saudi delegate, Prince Turki Ben Mohammad, said the multilateral talks were launched in Madrid to complete the direct negotiations and should not move ahead of

them. "This meeting does not mean normalisation (of relations with Israel)," said Sheikh Hamad, the conference host.

He confirmed delegates' reports of differences among the Arab delegations on this issue but said that they eventually agreed with the majority that the brief of the arms control panel was technical rather than political.

Prince Turki told the closing session the panel should concentrate its efforts on issues such as armaments and arms industries.

"We categorically reject the political section of the project, which is aimed at normalising relations between Arab states and Israel," Prince Turki told AFP.

"Most Arab participants also rejected this part of the text," Prince Turki said.

David Levy, leader of the Israeli negotiating team, stressed his government's commitment to the entire plan, including the political chapter.

"The political section (of the accord) is necessary because it offers a working framework for future meetings," he argued.

The draft statement drawn up at a meeting in Cairo in January proposed a number of confidence-building measures and the creation of a zone where weapons of mass destruction would be banned.

Prince Turki said the statement should cover "only military questions, including the elimination of weapons of mass destruction."

Mr. Levy said he did not understand Saudi Arabia's objections. The kingdom had rejected a U.S. proposal to hold another meeting in June in Vienna, judging that date too close," he added.

Prince Turki told reporters earlier his country adamantly opposed the adoption of political principles primarily aimed

at pushing Arabs into ties with Israel even before it makes peace with countries like Syria and Lebanon.

The two countries have so far boycotted the multilateral negotiations.

Western delegates said a clause on political and other fundamental rights was unacceptable to Saudi Arabia and other conservative Arabs who do not accept the Western understanding of those concepts.

They see such a clause as a virtual invitation to others to intervene in their internal affairs.

Arab delegations focused on Israel's nuclear arms programme and Sheikh Hamad said it should be a major concern of the arms control negotiations.

Israel, which enjoys a technical edge over the Arabs, focused on Arab numerical superiority in conventional weapons.

Mr. Einhorn said one tangible confidence-building measure agreed in principle was a Netherlands-proposed electronic communications network to link the foreign ministries of the Middle East.

But joining was voluntary and the Dutch promoters of the scheme were seen on Thursday trying hard to persuade the different delegations to agree to be linked to the network based initially on a hub in the Hague.

Switzerland and Finland offered to welcome delegates from the region for visits to arms control sites and military training in the two countries.

Israel also offered a similar visit to one of its military sites, but the suggestion was turned down by Saudi Arabia.

"We will not take part in any activities in Israel and we will not host any of the multilateral negotiations," declared Prince Turki.

World Bank announces plans

WASHINGTON — The World Bank has announced a \$1,200 million three-year programme to give the Palestinians the tools to fight unemployment and underdevelopment in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, areas being given limited self-rule by Israel.

The money is the first installment by 40 countries and international organizations of a five-year, \$2,400 million programme to build electrical, transportation, housing and health systems in the two areas.

"The international community is betting that this programme can jump-start the Palestinian economy over the next three years. We are optimistic because the Palestinians are enterprising and well-trained," Cao Koch-Weser, Bank vice president for the Middle East and North Africa Region, said in a statement accompanying the announcement.

Following are excerpts from the text of the World Bank report on the emergency assistance programme for the occupied territories:

"The goal of the programme is to rebuild the dilapidated infrastructure of the occupied territories in order to stimulate economic growth by attracting private investment from expatriate Palestinians, international investors, and Arab states. About \$200 in aid per person per year would flow into the occupied territories over the next three years.

The 36-page summary report Emergency Assistance Programme for the occupied territories — is an outgrowth of the World Bank's September 1993 six-volume economic

report, Developing the Occupied Territories: An Investment in Peace, which identified the major problems and needs of the West Bank and Gaza. This report distills many findings and recommendations of a two-volume document entitled: Emergency Assistance to the occupied territories issued in March, 1994.

The World Bank staff believe that the programme is viable. However, the Bank does not call it a blueprint. "The programme has to be treated very flexibly because of all the uncertainties," says Mr. Koch-Weser.

The programme has been jointly prepared by the Bank's staff and a dedicated team of Palestinian counterparts. Representatives of donor countries, Israel, and regional and international organisations also participated in its preparation.

The programme is designed for the Palestinians to take economic management into their own hands. The donors are providing the resources and tools to make the programme work. However, the donors want accountability. They want to know that their funds are being well spent."

The \$1,200 million is the initial installment of the \$2,100 million originally pledged over five years to the Palestinians by 40 international donors at the October 1, 1993 conference held at the U.S. State Department in Washington (the pledges subsequently increased to \$2,400 million). The largest pledges have come from the European Union — \$600 million over 5 years; United States — \$500 million over 5 years;

Over a five-year period, annual aid to the occupied territories will reach about 15 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), which is about the most any country can absorb, notes Mr. Koch-Weser.

Donor funds will be disbursed through many different channels. Initially, the funds will go through the newly-formed Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), municipalities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and U.N. agencies such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and the United Nations Development Programme.

Temperatures will rise further becoming around average with winds southwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 22/35 Aqaba 18/33 Deir el-Zor 27/37 Jordan Valley 17/32

Yesterdays high temperatures Amman 22, Aqaba 30 Humidity readings: 62/54.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ... Le Monde sous Marée ... Dossier De La Semaine ... News in French ... Uthna ... News in Hebrew ... Charlie ... News in Arabic ... AG News ... The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air ... The Campbell ... News in English ... The Last Bastion

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PRAYER TIMES

Fajr ... (Sunrise) Dhuhr ... Asr ... Magrib ... Isha ...

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel: 610740.

Assumption of God Church, Tel: 637785.

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624390.

Church of the Assumption Tel: 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel: 661757.

Terracotta Church Tel: 622366.

Church of the Assumption Tel: 623541.

Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ismail Tarif ... 794710

Dr. Abbas Al Hikim ... 885446

Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas ... 759155

Dr. Jamal Al Bari ... 796460

Firas Pharmacy ... 661912

Firdous Pharmacy ... 778336

Al Asmaa Pharmacy ... 670575

Nairoukh Pharmacy ... 661962

Al Salam Pharmacy ... 661975

Yacoub Pharmacy ... 661995

Shamsan Pharmacy ... 637620

Najib Pharmacy ... 347632

Min./Max. temp.

Amman ... 9/25

Aqaba ... 18/33

Deir el-Zor ... 27/27

Jordan Valley ... 17/32

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EMERGENCIES

FOOT CONTROL CENTRE

637111

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661111

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63041

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Jordan Times

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Sad day for Yemen

THE ERUPTION of an all-out war between North and South Yemen is a major setback to Arab unity. Repeated efforts were made, especially by Jordan, Oman and other nations, to contain the political and military feud between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh and to save the Yemeni unity which many Arabs looked up to as an example to be followed.

His Majesty King Hussein invested so much time and energy to reestablish fraternal relations between the two parts of Yemen and convened an all Yemeni conference in Amman last February for this purpose. The Amman communiqué signed by all Yemeni leaders, including President Saleh and Vice-President Beidh and Speaker of Parliament Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar promised to put the Yemeni house back in order, preserving above all national unity. All these relentless efforts were, however, laid to waste as evidenced by the large-scale armed conflict that is engulfing the country now. Sad to note that the unity which was struck with so much promise between the North and South in May 1990 is all but dead and only a miracle could save it.

The obvious implication of the failure to reconstitute the union is that no amount of external forces can replace the local determination and will to unify the country.

It appears that the political cohesion between the two parts of the united country was never attained, anyway. And the best proof of this is the refusal of the two "regimes" to unify their respective armed forces as they kept them as some kind of reservoir to roll back the unity that was formed at and by the top echelon of the two territories. With Sanaa remaining the bastion of traditional and conservative elements and Aden continuing to be steadfast in upholding its socialist doctrine it was only a matter of time before it would become obvious that oil and water could not mix.

The clear flaw in the Yemeni experiment to forge union lies squarely in the fact that democracy as such was never exercised to attain it. The non-involvement of the people of the country whether they come from the North and the South and the continued promotion of tribalism as basis for the political structure of the nation may have led to the inevitable situation of today. All that Arabs and non-Arabs can do now is to pray that the bloodshed in Yemen cease and that the process of restructuring the unification of the country on sound and rational basis could begin as soon as hostilities could be brought to an end.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

PERHAPS IT is a unanimous feeling among the Arab masses that the signing of the Cairo accord by Palestinian and Israeli leaders Wednesday marked a turning point in the future of the Palestinian people and indeed in the whole Middle East conflict, according to Al Ra'i daily. The paper said that only the future stage can determine whether the accord would succeed because everything is now left to the Israelis, whether to allow the Palestinians to have their say in their autonomous region and whether the Jewish settlement programmes would continue or not. It remains to be seen if the Israelis are truly willing to pull out their forces and dismantle any of their settlements or if they are tactically redeploying their troops and retaining all of the settlements, the paper said. It is true that the ceremony for signing the accord has ended, but, said the paper, the deal has directed all eyes towards the occupied territories where the applications on the ground should start in the coming days. In short, added the paper, what remains to be seen is whether the Israelis are truly willing to comply with the requirements of the international legitimacy and the U.N. resolutions.

IN THE view of Saleh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shabab, the Cairo accord on implementing the autonomy rule in parts of the occupied Arab lands came about as a result of pressures on the Palestinian leaders and not as a result of negotiations. The Egyptian-Israeli-American pressures were instrumental in forcing Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to sign the Cairo accord and thus making him sell out the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland, said the writer. The last scene of pressure was displayed on television when viewers witnessed the signatories haggling over the details, with Mr. Arafat being pressured into signing the maps as well as the accord itself, he added. The Palestinian people were not jubilant over the conclusion of the deal because they saw with their own eyes their leaders selling out their rights through the deal which gives Israel the upper hand in the autonomy rule, said the writer. He said those who have been optimistic would have their dreams dashed away when they witness the king of autonomy rule Mr. Arafat has brought to the Palestinian people.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Tackling the Yemeni challenge

WE WERE hoping against hope the situation in Yemen would not develop the way it did, slowly sliding into civil strife. Fears were always there that reckless actions based in irrational thinking could push the situation to the brink and hence the concerted diplomacy that Jordan and others exerted in the country to avert a bloody civil war.

For us in Jordan the worsening crisis in Yemen is very painful, having engaged in an all-out effort to reconcile the north and south and maintain the unity of the country based on the understanding that no one but the Yemenis stood to pay the price for chaos and a possible redissolution of the country.

Our brotherly feelings towards the Yemeni people and the strong ties that bind Jordan with Yemen as well as our anxiety that the first two Arab countries to unite on the basis of democracy were the main factors behind us going out on a limb seeking an amicable solution based on the very principles of democracy, human rights, freedoms and justice.

But now that the Yemenis seem to be more interested in waging a fratricidal war than reconciliation, we cannot but assume that a civil war in the country leading to a separation of the north from the south and the abortion of the nascent democracy there was the predetermined objective of external forces.

In retrospect then, the efforts that Jordan and Oman undertook, in concert with Europe and the United States, to bring President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh to sign a reconciliation accord in Amman in February were doomed to failure from the start.

It would appear that those who pulled and continue to pull the strings in Yemen had no intention to allow any reconciliation to succeed. And the tribal-oriented thinking among Yemenis provided a breeding ground for that objective.

There are many theories behind the seemingly irreconcilable differences between the southern and northern Yemenis. These include the fears of some that a blooming democracy in the Arabian Peninsula does not bode well for some others; that the southerners were having second thoughts of the May 1990 Yemeni merger after promising signs of oil were found in their territory; that the north was perceived as seeking to turn the merger into domination, and that there was inequitable distribution of the resources and revenues of the country and this led to wide discontent and frustration.

Another widely-held theory is that the southerners could not accept a secondary role in running the country while a northerner remained president, particularly that they were used to running their life in a different style and manner until the merger.

No matter what the motivations and considerations behind the slide into chaos in Yemen, the root cause could be easily identified as unclear perceptions and gaping holes in the understanding of what democracy is all about.

Quite simply, had there been a clear acceptance among the Yemenis that democracy means equal rights and responsibilities and it was up to them to decide their fate through the ballot box, we would not be seeing what we see today in the country. When the Yemenis went to the first polls of their united country in April 1993, the hopes of all democracy-loving people everywhere were high that the way of life in the region had taken a well-founded direction towards a dramatic change.

Obviously, in our optimism and jubilance that Yemenis were emulating what we did here in Jordan since 1989, we overlooked the fact that not everyone in the region shared those sentiments and some were in fact very worried over the Yemeni turn towards democracy.

But that does not mean laying the entire blame for the crisis in Yemen at the doorsteps of external forces. The Yemeni people themselves have the major share of responsibility and blame of the problems that they face today.

It is naive to argue in this era of instant communications and access to information on how life is like around the globe that the Yemenis did not get the proper exposure to what democracy is all about. Granted, many regions in the country are underdeveloped and radio and television may even be a novelty to them. But then, they are not the ones that are behind today's crisis in Yemen. On the contrary, intellectuals, statesmen, diplomats and others with an enlightened understanding of how the world works are making the decisions on both sides of the fence.

They clearly understand the norms of democracy and perhaps this understanding itself is part of their frenzied attempts to scramble the situation.

The problems of underdevelopment in Yemen were indeed a catalyst in the events that led to today's crisis, including the failure of the unity government to properly address the problems of poverty and unemployment and demands for better living conditions for the Yemeni people.

Again, it was a vicious circle. For the first three years after the merger, the developments in Yemen towards improving the lot of the Yemeni people were of an acceptable level, given the magnitude of the problems in the country of 13 million people.

On the one hand, the crisis that developed after the elections tied the hands of everyone in implementing much-needed development projects that could boost the feeling among Yemenis that they stood to lose something if the unity of the country was challenged.

On the other, as long as the government was unable to provide an input that did make a difference to the life styles of the people, confidence in the new system and unity were eroded.

Despite all arguments and theories, the fact remains that we as Arabs have a moral obligation to do everything we can to prevent bloodshed in Yemen. It is the responsibility of all Arab as leaders to give priority to finding an immediate mechanism to prevent a full-blown civil war and then launch parallel efforts for reconciliation in Yemen.

History will not forgive them if the Arab leaders did not move now. The entire Yemeni countryside is awash with weapons, and what we risk today is an annihilation of a people and identity in the Arabian Peninsula if we do not move swiftly and firmly to put an end to the fracas in Yemen.

It is simply unacceptable for us in Jordan to witness Arab leaders blaming the entire crisis on the Yemeni people and conveniently arguing that they could do little if the Yemeni people were bent upon destroying themselves and their country.

An opportunity has presented itself to the Arab League to reassess itself as the true representative and umbrella for the more than 200 million Arabs and prove itself as an institution which was founded for the very purpose as settling problems among Arab brethren.

What we need today is concerted Arab League action with a sense of purpose and direction towards averting a civil war in Yemen and then chalk out clear perceptions of what all sides involved in the Yemeni crisis want with a view to working out a national salvation agreement that takes into consideration the complaints and grievances of all. Sure enough, not everyone could be made happy, but raising the awareness of the Yemeni people of what the Yemeni nation stands to lose could be a first step towards preventing Yemen becoming the Lebanon of the 70s and 80s.

Clinton's foreign policy debacle

By Donald M. Rothberg
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The toughest foreign policy questions thrown at U.S. President Bill Clinton were about the world's smallest countries, which have caused some of his biggest headaches.

Was he ready to use force in Haiti? Was he flip-flopping on Bosnia?

The questioning reflected a reality that has dogged the 15 months of his presidency: It is difficult to reset America's course in the world.

Through most of a recent 90-minute Cable News Network (CNN) foreign policy forum, Mr. Clinton responded good naturally to questions. But when accused of flip-flopping on Bosnia, his anger flared.

"There have been no constant flip-flops, madam," he replied. He went on to deny that his campaign rhetoric had been stronger than his policies in office.

"I ran for president saying that I would do my best to limit ethnic cleansing and to see the United States play a more active role in resolving the problem in Bosnia," he said. "And we have been much more active than my predecessor was in every way from the beginning."

Later, he admitted that "all leaders sometimes have had to back and fill and alter their course throughout history."

Few doubted the relevance to U.S. national interests when questions involved the Soviet Union. But in a world without another superpower whose interests aren't always that clear cut.

In a world where problems often come in small packages, Mr. Clinton pointed out that "not every issue is one that you can put the entire weight of the entire military might, the entire prestige of the United States on the line for."

He defended his foreign policy team, saying "It's just that they're plowing new ground."

It's from lingering crises in Bosnia, Haiti and Somalia that Mr. Clinton is learning this: It is much tougher to formulate foreign policy inside the Oval Office than to critique from the outside.

Candidate Clinton demanded tougher U.S. action to curb the killing in Bosnia. He wanted a more welcoming attitude toward Haitian refugees. Somalia ended up as his December surprise.

On Jan. 20, 1993, Mr. Clinton inherited a world of problems that defied solutions.

He argued in Atlanta that he hasn't waffled on Bosnia. But there is no question that even before taking office he reversed his campaign position on welcoming Haitian refugees.

By the time he took office, Mr. Clinton had adopted predecessor George Bush's policy of turning back refugee

boats headed for U.S. shores.

Now, Mr. Clinton is raising the specter of military action to return democratically elected Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. Ironically, Mr. Bush says he has changed his view and believes the United States should break from Mr. Aristide.

Russia, the Middle East and trade are big issues on which Mr. Clinton claims success. Ultimately, they may give Mr. Clinton a reputation as a strong foreign policy president.

But at this point in his presidency, the world is unruly and resistant to the efforts by the United States and its allies to make it behave.

Like John F. Kennedy, the president who inspired his entry into politics, Mr. Clinton is finding it more difficult than he expected to reset America's course in the world.

He borrowed a quote from Mr. Kennedy to say that foreign policy problems had proven "more difficult than I imagined them to be."

At the end of Mr. Clinton's first year, the journal Foreign Affairs was asking whether his foreign policy would eventually merit comparison with that of Warren Harding or Harry Truman. The author, Paul Wolfowitz, a former official in the Reagan and Bush administrations, noted that Mr. Harding received early plaudits while pursuing policies that helped to produce the debacle of the 1930s."

After what Mr. Wolfowitz described as a "stumbling performance" his first year in office, Mr. Truman developed a foreign policy held up to this day as a model of America's role in the world.

Ironically, Mr. Clinton gets higher marks for the big problems.

The administration's policy towards Russia and the other states that emerged from the wreckage of the Soviet Union gets bipartisan support. The U.S.-Soviet nuclear confrontation no longer holds the world in terror.

In the Middle East, with the United States continuing an activist role, the peace process is making headway despite periodic outbreaks of violence.

South Africa has held its first multiracial election and Mr. Clinton declared that "I'm proud of America's role in helping to make the miracle happen."

Mr. Clinton also can claim two significant victories on trade policy — congressional approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement and successful completion of an updated global trade agreement, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

On the question of how to deal with China, Mr. Clinton has stayed fairly close to his campaign demand that the United States link trade privileges to Beijing's human rights policies.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

The Cairo accord: a sell-out or a first step on the road to statehood?

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE SIGNING in Cairo Wednesday of an accord for the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy rule attracted most of columnists' attention in the Arabic press in the past week. Other articles tackled the peace process and a host of domestic affairs.

Under the title, "an agreement between Arafat and the Jews," a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the Cairo accord represented a dangerous turning point in the life of the whole Arab Nation, and not the Palestinians alone.

Deputy Bassam Enoosh said that the danger inherent in the accord threatens the whole of the Arab Islamic Nations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily described the Cairo accord as a starting point, despite its flaws and shortcomings. Mahmoud Rimawi said that one should admit that though the accord did not usher in a complete peace, the agreement was to be considered a transitional solution enabling the Palestinians to exercise the right to their own affairs on their national soil.

The writer said that the Palestinians have a long way to go in their struggle to regain all of their lands and rights but it should be noted that the accord was a small step on the long way to achieving that goal.

Addressing the same topic, Mohammad Kawash, a writer in Al Dustour, said that the signing of the accord was definitely not the end of the road for the Palestinians. He said those who have been optimistic would have their dreams dashed away when they witness the king of autonomy rule Mr. Arafat has brought to the Palestinian people.

to realize that the Palestinian people in the occupied lands want to see the agreement implemented on the ground and want their leaders to cling hard to their continued struggle aimed at ensuring a complete Israeli military withdrawal from all lands after the Jericho and Gaza agreement has been implemented, he said.

Regardless of the critics of the accord and the pessimism shrouding the minds of many Arabs, one cannot dismiss the fact that the limited Palestinian-Israeli peace has allowed thousands to return to their homeland, said Issa Shueib, a columnist in Al Dustour daily. The writer said that the accord can be viewed as a first step towards regaining Palestinian rights but all depends on whether Israel would be committed to its implementation.

Israel is expected to implement the Cairo accord while the PLO leadership is expected to live up to expectations and prove its capability in handling political, social and economic affairs, said Mohammad Daoud, a columnist in Al Dustour. The writer said that if these steps are taken and initial success is achieved, the accord would win credibility and would pave the ground for the next step and final step of freedom for the rest of the occupied lands.

Abdullah Al Qaq, a columnist in Al Dustour, hailed the recent measures by the interior ministry concerning the travel and residence of West Bankers in Jordan as a very positive step in the right direction. The writer said that the measures put into practice the slogan of a Jordanian-Palestinian national unity. Facilitating travel and residence for the West Bankers reflects the Kingdom's keenness on living up to its promises of providing support and help to the Palestinian brothers and sisters across the river, he added.

Saleh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shabab daily, criticised the Ministry of Labour for allowing guest workers a free hand in the labour market. How can the government deal with the unemployment question while most of the Jordanian companies are allowed to employ tens of thousands of non-Jordanian workers in the stores, gas stations, farms, bakeries and factories? asked the writer. To make matters worse, he said, official government firms and institutions continue to employ non-Jordanians in their business. He said the government has a duty to find work for the unemployed whose increasing number create a fertile soil for crime and deteriorating social conditions.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shabab daily, said that appealing to the public to refrain from damaging trees and harming the environment can achieve no result. Citing a Ministry of Agriculture statement giving figures about the enormous losses in trees every year, the writer said that if calls on the public to protect the trees are not enough, the concerned parties ought to turn to the Ministry of Education for help because it can teach the young a true love for the country and its environment and natural resources.

In the view of Saleh Al Qaq, a columnist in Al Dustour, the recent measures by the interior ministry concerning the travel and residence of West Bankers in Jordan as a very positive step in the right direction. The writer said that the measures put into practice the slogan of a Jordanian-Palestinian national unity. Facilitating travel and residence for the West Bankers reflects the Kingdom's

Features

Department of Antiquities 'powerless' to stop theft and smuggling of artifacts

By Ian Atallah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The illegal excavation and smuggling of Jordan's ancient archaeological treasures has become a problem of major proportions in the Kingdom, Sawsan Al Tal, director of Jordan's Department of Antiquities, told the Jordan Times.

Moreover, certain bands of illegal excavators "are conducting prearranged work on behalf of commercial centres both inside and outside the country," he said.

Although his department has no hard statistics, said Mr. Tal, "I've been informed by many staff members of the department about numerous violations in many sites in Jordan." Since the Department of Antiquities began to expand its cooperative activities with the Public Security Department (PSD) recently, "we captured many such items at border sites and airports."

He stated that his sense of alarm had pushed him to personally ask the minister of tourism for aid to deal with the problem.

One local newspaper, Al Ahali, claimed in an article published on April 28 that an unnamed European ambassador to Jordan had actually attempted to purchase a large collection of pieces illegally excavated in the Karak Governorate from "its owners" before the collection was found and seized by Jordanian authorities.

Mr. Tal explained that the grave robbers' crimes were not the sort to attract high levels of public attention because they occurred in remote spots outside the public eye, as such illegal excavators target "hidden sites not seen by people and not under daily control."

And contrary to popular notions, he said, grave robbers are not necessarily searching for gold and silver; "the value of the objects is in their age — they take bowls, and jugs — mostly pottery."

"These people are selling the artifacts they find for three to five dinars to put bread in their mouths," Mr. Tal said, whereas such items will fetch

hundreds and even tens of thousands of dinars for middlemen in international collectors' markets.

"Who do we blame," he asked, "the poor people or the rich people behind the funding? Both share the blame, while we go about extinguishing our cultural heritage."

The Department of Antiquities and the PSD were stung into action at the beginning of April by a CNN news broadcast which filmed grave robbers digging in broad daylight at an ancient Bronze Age cemetery in the Ghor Safi. Over 900 artifacts from these illegal digs were eventually confiscated by Jordanian authorities, said Mr. Tal.

The cemetery shown on film by the CNN crew was already rifled and cratered from previous illegal excavations, and the broadcast stated that most of the grave robbers caught on film were merely "local farmers looking to earn a little extra money."

"There is no work now in the fields — why should we stay there all the time?" one robber asked the CNN crew.

The report also described Amman as a "thriving market" for illegally excavated finds.

Mr. Tal explained that despite the fact that it is explicitly against the law for anyone to excavate or export any Jordanian antiquities without approval from the Department of Antiquities, the numerous occurrences of such acts was currently beyond the department's ability to cope with due to its "lack of size."

The department's problem is that we are currently engaged in having to control all of Jordan, and are responsible for every inch," he said. However, with over 100,000 archaeological sites currently documented and registered in Jordan, "the manpower is simply not available for us to go and dig," as most of the department's employees are needed to aid foreign archaeology expeditions coming to Jordan or to handle administrative duties, Mr. Tal explained.

And with only a little over 300 hired watchmen available to the department to guard over such sites, "we still have thousands of sites which we cannot control," and which lie as easy prey to grave robbers.

Mr. Tal said that the main area of illegal diggers' activity in Jordan is the zone extending from the southern shores of the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba, which contains many Bronze Age sites and funeral grounds in Ghor Safi, Bab Al Dira' and Wadi Araba.

The difficulty for authorities, he explained, lies in the fact that this area is especially difficult to monitor because it is a military zone "and a no-man's land. There are no people living there," which makes patrolling such sites a doubly easy task.



Director of the Department of Antiquities Sawsan Al Tal (right) and PSD officials inspect some of the artifacts confiscated from illegal excavations performed in Ghor Safi

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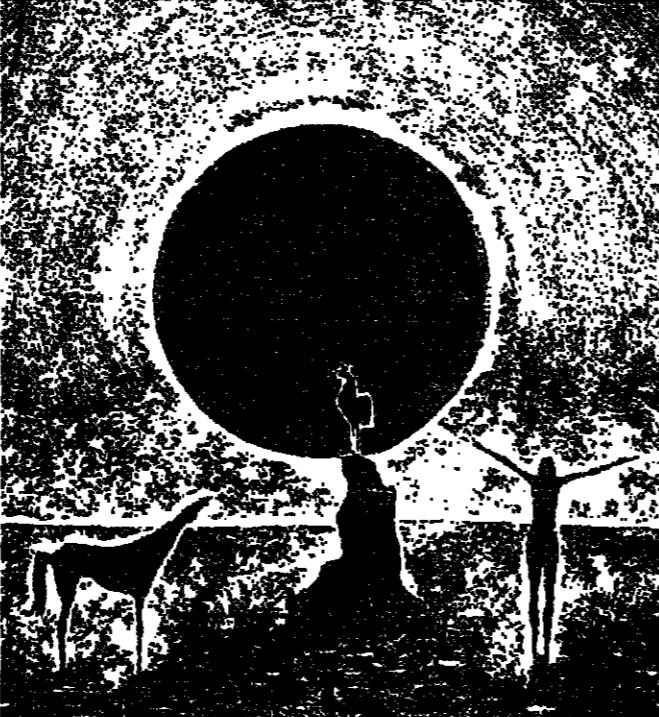
The difficulty for authorities, he explained, lies in the fact that this area is especially difficult to monitor because it is a military zone "and a no-man's land. There are no people living there," which makes patrolling such sites a doubly easy task.

Mr. Tal said that the Department of Antiquities presently has a policy of financially compensating anyone who finds an ancient artifact and turns it over to the appropriate authorities with a reward based on the artifact's net worth.

However, he stressed, in his opinion a public information and awareness campaign was needed to awaken Jordanians to the importance of their country's ancient heritage.

"We modern Jordanians did not come from another planet. We evolved as a people on this rock and this soil, and these sites belong to our ancestors," he said.

"But so far, this philosophy has not been taken seriously by our people."



One of Mustafa Hallaj's earlier works on display at Baladina Art Gallery

Artist represents mythology and mundanity in his works

By Ica Wahbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Born in Palestine, living in Syria, having studied in Egypt and moved through the region, Mustafa Hallaj seems steeped both in the Mediterranean basin's mythology and its modern way of living.

His works, on display at the Baladina Art Gallery, range from as old as 1967 to nowadays and even if the approach is different, the symbolism, the animal representations and the attention to details is present in all.

A sculptor and carver in the first place, Mr. Hallaj leaves the imprint of his chisel on his paintings as well.

A first group of works are sober, elegant, black and white prints. First carved on metal or wood, the drawings are then impressed on paper, the myriad of etched lines faithfully reproduced.

Mythology is ever present, as are metamorphosed human bodies, animals — chosen by the artist for their symbolism — the sun and the perfectly proportioned woman body, voluptuously curved and glorious in its nudity.

In most of this group of poster-like prints, proportions vary as the artist gives a predominant place to the major figure of the frame, at the same time not omitting the details of everything else present.

For example, a huge lion, bared fangs snarling and body taking more than a quarter of the print, represents the threat of the occupying power attacking a Palestinian village where smaller figures of villagers try to defend themselves.

Greek and Egyptian mythological scenes are also represented, the black ink contrasting with the white paper, giving the action the solemnity it commands.

Newer works preserve the stamp of the artist's mastery, but show a preoccupation with more mundane things, scenes from daily life replacing the more spiritual themes of the older works.

Mythology, symbolism and animal representations are still present, but instead of group compositions, the paintings have one or two characters present only: a man selling fruit in the street, a woman kneading dough with a child riding a bicycle in the background, a female figure smok-

ing on a chair.

Colours appear too. They are mostly sober ochres, olive greens, brick reds or gold, but the mixture of water colour with natural resin gives them a coppery sheen.

The characters in the paintings are real-life people we can relate to: a woman washing in a basin, a pregnant woman talking to her neighbour with a child looking on, one drawing water from a well.

A self-portrait, that of a white-bearded patriarch, is the most static of all representations.

The works are smaller in size than the earlier prints. They tax the imagination with their symbolism, at the same time exuding a feeling of peacefulness and serenity, of life as is, as we live it on daily basis.

The exhibition is on until May 8.

From peasants to revolutionaries to Palestinian policemen

By Marian M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

A 7,000-strong Palestinian police force will begin its entry into Gaza and Jericho this week to oversee and support the establishment of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories that Israel is willing to vacate.

But less than 72 hours before the first units of the Palestinian police force is expected to enter the occupied territories the policemen are still known as members of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA).

The PLA was founded months after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was founded under the leadership of Ahmed Shukairi in 1964. PLA units were formed in Gaza, Syria and Iraq.

Mostly armed and trained in the host countries, the PLA represents the fighting force that was evacuated from Lebanon after the Israeli invasion of that country in 1982.

Most of the PLA is composed of Palestinians who lived in refugee camps in Jordan, Gaza, the West Bank, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. Most of them were from rural communities who were forced to leave their homes by advancing Israeli troops or who fled scenes of fighting.

"We went from being peasants to revolutionaries to policemen," is how one PLA official described the metamorphosis from a "liberation fighter" to a "traffic controller."

Many of the PLA men who are expected to take over security and public order under Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho feel bitter sweet about their return to parts of Palestine.

"These are over 6,500 men who, even since they can remember, have been training to liberate Palestine through military rather than diplomatic means," said Colonel Mohammad Ibrahim as he trained with his men at the PLA headquarters in Khaw last week. "They were a liberation force, a liberation

army. That's what they joined when they signed up, 10, 20, 30 years ago."

But today the "men in khaki" are preparing to change their mission as well as the colour of uniforms.

They have been ready for their return to the West Bank and Gaza since the Sept. 13, 1993, Oslo accords were signed, said the PLA commander in Jordan, Brigadier Mohammad Qudis.

The senior men in uniform are men like Brig. Qudis who joined the liberation movement in the 1960s. They are almost exclusively from the Palestine of 1948, or refugees. The "liberation" of their hometowns and villages is not on the agenda of the discussions between Israel and the PLO.

Most if not all of these men are undoubtedly loyal to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, but most appear to have a "heavy heart."

"This is not the solution to the Palestine problem that we had in mind," says a senior PLA official in Amman referring to the "Gaza-Jericho first" plan. The terms of the autonomy accord are likely to make any Palestinian force almost entirely dependent on the Israeli and Palestinian statehood seems out of the question for the moment, he said.

For those who did not envision a victorious war, a triumphal entry into the West Bank and Gaza would have been a second choice. Instead many fear they will not be "allowed" to enter with their guns.

Most have little confidence in the abilities of the PLO or the Arab countries to extract decent terms for an autonomous Palestine.

"We will exist under the mercy of the Israelis. That's not liberation — that's humiliation. I will go in and stay a while and leave. I will not agree to live in humiliation at the end of my days," said one 50-year-old colonel who says he will try to emigrate to Canada or Australia.

Silent fears

The older guard of the PLA have been discussing

the problems they will face, specifically with local youths, once they enter as a police force.

These kids see authority as the enemy. So far Israel has been the authority, but once we enter we too will be seen in a negative light,"

explained the colonel. "We don't want to end up shooting or arresting our own intifada kids for hooliganism."

Fears of confrontation with intifada youths are among the greatest worries of the police force.

Palestinian human rights activists such as Hanan Ashrawi and others have warned that the police force should not become yet another tool to oppress the Palestinians.

"There is a nasty rumour that we will be doing the dirty work on behalf of the Israelis," said Col. Mahmoud Gharbawi.

"That's not true. We will go to protect our people from Israeli attacks and not the other way round."

But Col. Gharbawi admitted that "problems are foreseen."

Going through photo albums of past battles that the PLA fought against Israelis in Lebanon and Jordan, Col. Gharbawi admits "the greatest challenge is yet to come."

Red Cross personnel educating senior officers of the PLA on the human rights aspects of police work agree.

"These men are soldiers. They have been trained to fight Israel. Now they will stand next to Israelis and maybe asked to shoot at Palestinians. It is a tremendously difficult task," one of several Swiss Red Cross human rights education officers told the Jordan Times.

It will be the young men who will eventually make up the rank and file of the Palestinian police force.

"They cannot understand how bitter we feel to have lost this battle or how humiliating it is for us to change from khaki to blue uniforms."

An additional 500 PLA members are based at the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced that

up to 20,000 to 30,000 relatives of the policemen would be allowed to return.

The total police force is to consist of 9,000 men; 20,000 of them will come from the occupied territories. Many of these have already been recruited and partially trained.

All members of the PLA are known to be loyal to the PLO, but recently Hamas leaders, hoping to get a foothold into the autonomy agreement, have pushed to have Hamas members included in the police force.

PLO officials say that Hamas members, if included in the police force, would be "in the lower rank and file."

Young Palestinian recruits for the police force are mostly in their late teens and early 20s who are signing up for a very different task than their older PLA predecessors.

They will not have the "illusion" of being liberators but rather "peacekeepers," senior members of the PLA.

Unless their predecessors, they are "looking for a job" and do not necessarily have any political inclinations. Many, drawn from poor homes in refugee camps, want to "move up and out" of the economic misery.

Without much education and training, they see the police force as a way out and maybe up in life.

"We will protect the Palestinians from the Israelis. We will protect the population from local hoodlums and theft," said one young recruit from the Jabal Al Hussein refugee camp in Amman.

In the scorching sun in Khaw, the PLA military camp north of Amman, young recruits are trained in military, police and human rights.

It will be the young men who will eventually make up the rank and file of the Palestinian police force.

The law imposed a fine ranging between JD 500 and JD 5,000 or a prison term ranging between four and six months or both penalties on violators of the law.

The law prohibited the use

of any measuring units other than those officially approved in Jordan. It entitles any department employee assigned by the director general to inspect any factory, store, shop or warehouse to draw samples for lab testing.

The law imposed a fine ranging between JD 500 and JD 5,000 or a prison term ranging between four and six months or both penalties on violators of the law.

Senate endorses metrology and specifications law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament Thursday endorsed the metrology and specifications law after introducing some amendments.

During Thursday's session, attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar and several Cabinet ministers, the House debated and approved articles 7 and onward. These articles define the terms of references of the board of directors of the Met-

ology and Specifications Department.

The board's terms of reference include the formulation of general policy and supervising its implementation, approving standard specifications and introducing amendments, and endorsing results of lab tests.

The board's duties also include the proposition of draft laws and regulations governing the work of the department and approving the department's budget and its organisation

structure.

The law bans the importation

or entry into the country

of any commodity or item which does not conform with the standard specifications for that item.

The law made it mandatory on all

ministries, government

departments and institutions, in addition to municipal and village councils, to observe the specifications upon floating invitation bids or tenders.

The law prohibited the use

of any measuring units other

than those officially approved

in Jordan.

It

Fierce fighting continues in Kigali

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — After another failed attempt to gain a ceasefire, government and rebel troops exchanged heavy mortar and small arms fire in Rwanda's capital for a fourth straight day Friday.

Residents of Kigali, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front appeared to be gaining ground in a final push to capture the capital after more than a month of fighting.

Two days of peace talks ended in confusion Thursday night in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha. Radio Tanzania reported the rebels had signed a ceasefire agreement with Rwanda's interim government, but the rebels later denied it.

The rebels are from Rwanda's minority ethnic group, the Tutsis. They claim the interim government is headed by extremists from the majority Hutu ethnic group and blame it for the savage massacres that have tipped the country apart.

"There's still intensive firing," U.N. spokesman Abdul Kibria said Friday morning by telephone from Kigali. "They shelled around the Hotel Miles Colines and the Ministry of Defence, but we have not been

able to determine casualties."

More than 300 people have been sheltering for weeks at the hotel under U.N. protection, but the peacekeepers have not been able to move them to a safer location. Mr. Kibria said the United Nations was still trying to negotiate a safe passage for the hotel residents with the army high command.

Kigali's airport, its only link with the outside world, remained closed Friday. Gen. Romeo Dallaire, the U.N. force commander, shut it down Thursday after a Canadian military cargo plane was shot at shortly after landing.

The Hercules C-130 had been delivering the only aid regularly reaching the embattled city. Mr. Kibria said it still had not been determined which side in the conflict fired on the plane. There were no injuries.

"Our humanitarian efforts have been very restricted by this intense exchange of fire all over the city," Mr. Kibria said.

The Canadian plane had just taxied to a halt and crewmen were beginning to unload its cargo of biscuits and bottled water when shots were fired across the tarmac, said Mark

Doyle of the BBC, who was a passenger.

"The loadmaster shouted, 'Let's get out of here,' and the plane raced off with the rear cargo door still down," Mr. Doyle said.

The army and the rebels have been trading small-arms fire and mortar shells across the airport for days. But under an agreement worked out by the United Nations, they usually stop shooting long enough to allow relief planes to land and take off.

The Canadian plane has been making two flights a day from Nairobi to Kigali with supplies for the 450 U.N. peacekeepers still there, plus food and medicine for several thousand refugees under U.N. protection in the capital.

The U.N. peacekeeping force, reduced last month from 2,500 to under 500, is lightly armed. Its mandate does not allow it to become involved in the fighting.

The death toll in Rwanda has been variously estimated by the United Nations and aid groups at 100,000 to more than 200,000. Most of the victims have been ethnic Tutsis, slaughtered by rogue soldiers, renegade army units and civilian militias sent on a killing spree in the capital.

men operating under the banners of political parties led by extremist Hutus, the ethnic majority.

At least 1.3 million people have been forced to flee their homes and some 300,000 have managed to reach safety in neighbouring countries — 250,000 of them crossed the border into Tanzania in a 24-hour period last week. They are now being fed at a U.N. camp near Ngara that overnight became Tanzania's second-largest population centre after Dar Es Salaam.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Thursday that during his visit to South Africa this weekend he would discuss Rwanda.

"I hope to meet with different government leaders from Africa to discuss ways of involving African groups to reinforce the presence of the United Nations in Kigali and Rwanda," he said in Geneva.

The fighting in Rwanda began after the president, a Hutu, was killed in a suspicious plane crash April 6. The next day, the presidential guard, renegade army units and civilian militias went on a killing spree in the capital.

"The bill, which must now be reconciled with a similar Senate-passed measure, bans the manufacture and sale of 19 types of rapid-fire weapons such as the AK-47, the Uzi and the TEC-9, often used by drug dealers and street gangs.

They include fast-fire rifles and handguns with high-capacity magazines. The measure exempts weapons already owned and 650 specified sporting guns.

The National Rifle Association, whose political clout and money have long been used to block gun control efforts in Congress, had pulled out all stops in fighting the bill.

Its defeat came on top of last year's congressional passage of a bill requiring a five-day waiting period for gun purchasers. That measure is now law.

Opponents of the assault weapons bill said it would infringe on the rights of law-abiding citizens while doing little to cut crime and warned members that it would herald even more restrictions for gun owners.

Armenia determined to reopen nuclear reactor

YEREVAN (R) — Armenia seems determined to ride out Western criticism and reopen a controversial nuclear power station with Russian help to surmount an energy crisis that has brought the economy to its knees.

The Metzamor power plant about 25 kilometres outside the Armenian capital was closed in 1989 when Armenia was still part of the Soviet Union, after an earthquake devastated the north of the Transcaucasian state killing 25,000 people.

The plant was not damaged even though the epicentre of the tremor was only 120 kilometres to the north. But the West says there are inbuilt design problems with its two Soviet-made reactors that make reopening risky.

Armenia, starved of energy mainly because of the war with its oil-rich neighbour Azerbaijan, says it is imperative that it reopens the Metzamor plant near the border with Turkey to get its economy restarted.

"The peculiar needs of Armenian leave it with no other choice," said Steve Tashjian, energy and fuel minister, in an interview Thursday. The present target date of reopening is around spring next year.

Leading industrialised countries in the Group of Seven (G-7) and the European Union have made it clear that, although they may sympathise with Armenia's plight, they are against recommissioning the plant. They say its safety standards will always be in doubt.

"We believe there are inherent problems with the design of the Metzamor plant, particularly the lack of a containment shell," a spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Yerevan said.

Nagano, 71, said he would not step down for the time being but would wait for instructions from Prime Minister Tatsuo Hata, who personally reprimanded the justice minister and who is scheduled to return from a European tour Saturday.

Nagano said in an interview published earlier this week that he believed the Nanjing massacre was a "fabrication" that it was "wrong" to say the Pacific War was waged with the aim of aggression. The remarks immediately

Unbowed by local poll rout, Major pledges to fight on

LONDON (R) — John Major vowed Friday to fight on as Britain's prime minister after his Conservatives suffered an unprecedented defeat in local elections, raising the prospect of a party leadership battle.

Major, who blamed the sweeping losses on economic recession and voters' dismay over party squabbling, told reporters that he would not give up without a fight.

"If anybody chooses to engage in that fight, they will find me standing there waiting for them," Mr. Major said.

In a verdict on two years of policy U-turns since the last general election, the Conservatives won just 27 per cent of the vote in Thursday's local council elections, the lowest share this century in a nationwide election.

The main opposition Labour Party, out of power nationally since 1979, consolidated the gains it made at the last local elections in 1990 by capturing 41 per cent of the vote.

The Conservatives were pushed into a humiliating third place by the centrist Liberal Democrats, who received 28 per cent.

If the figures were repeated in a general election, Labour would have a majority of 125 in the 651-seat parliament.

"This is not just a shock.

This is a body blow to the Major government," Labour leader John Smith said. "In every part of the country they've been rejected and rejected in some style."

Although senior Conservatives tried to portray the defeat as a mid-term protest vote, they said Mr. Major needed to reassess his authority over his divided and demoralised party or run the risk of a leadership challenge in the months ahead.

Maverick Conservative MP John Carlisle said Mr. Major's position was now "almost untenable" and he would stand against the prime minister in the autumn if no one else came forward.

"It is critically important that this result is looked at very closely and he must look at his own position," he said.

Mr. Carlisle, chairman of the influential 1922 Committee of Backbench Conservative MPs, said dissidents like Carlisle should shut up. The party needed to close ranks if it wanted to survive.

He said Mr. Major had to take the lead by shaking up his cabinet, which he said had failed to give the political direction sought by grassroots Conservatives.

"There will have to be a reshuffle," Mr. Fox said. "What we have to do is to

show that we now are positive, setting out to succeed and to stop all this bickering."

With results from most of the 5,000 council seats, the Conservatives had suffered net losses of more than 400. They lost control of 17 councils and kept control in 13.

Labour made deep inroads into strongholds of middle-class Conservative support such as Croydon in south London, held by the Conservatives for 100 years, and Basildon in Essex, a symbol of Mr. Major's success at the last general election.

Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown trumpeted his party's success in gaining 350 seats and taking control of 10 councils.

"This is the end of four years of solid successes that add together to show the strong upward curve of the party," he said.

It was the Conservatives' worst electoral performance since 1945. The party suffered a rout in Scotland, did badly in the north of England and failed to capture the central city of Birmingham, their main target outside London.

In the capital, the Conservatives lost six boroughs, a crumb of comfort was their retention of the flagship wardsworthy council.

"We're still in love", say Gere, Crawford in Times advert

LONDON (AFP) — Hollywood's "golden couple" — film star Richard Gere and supermodel Cindy Crawford — took out a full-page advertisement in the Times Friday to counter press speculation over their marriage. "We got married because we love each other and we decided to make a life together. We are heterosexual and monogamous and take our commitment to each other very seriously... We remain very married," the couple said in an advertisement estimated to have cost more than £20,000 (\$30,000). Gere and Crawford said they feel "quite foolish" in responding to rumours which they said stemmed from a "French tabloid", but they wished "to correct the falsehoods" and rumours and hope it will alleviate the concerns of their friends and fans.

"In the advertisement headed 'A Personal Statement' by Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford" the pair, known as Hollywood's "golden couple", stated they were looking forward to starting a family and stressed Gere's career in films will not be abandoned. The public statement followed months of speculation by gossip columnist that they were about to divorce.

Museum buys 15 Warhols, becomes second-largest collection

BALTIMORE, Maryland (AFP) — The Baltimore Museum of Art will add 15 Andy Warhol paintings and three drawings to its collection, making it the second-largest museum collection of Warhol's art in the world. The museum paid over \$1 million for the works and will add them to 23 other pieces it has. Warhol made his mark with "pop art" a modern form fusing images of commonplace items such as dollar bills with brilliant colour. He also applied the same technique to celebrity portraits. The works span from 1975 to 1986. Warhol died in 1987 from surgical complications.

The majority of the dead were Burmese Robinya refugees living in 18 camps between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf, 90 kilometres away on the coast. The government, aid agencies and foreign diplomats said they were "relieved" by the minimum loss of life. "Bangladesh substantially mitigated the cyclone's impact by mobilising governmental and non-governmental organisations before the storm arrived and by evacuating hundreds of thousands of people to safer areas before its landfall," said the U.S. ambassador, David Merrill.

In an interview published in newspaper Friday, Mr. Merrill said that "some 100 to 200 people were killed in the cyclone on Monday, which is far less than in 1991 when the country's worst storm claimed 138,000 lives.

The U.S. government has sent a disaster management expert to Cox's Bazar to help the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, Mr. Merrill said without giving details.

3 dead wives in 4 years prompts suspicions

HEBER SPRINGS, Ark. (AP) — Mrs. Carter drowned. Mr. Carter shot himself. Next Mrs. Carter shot herself, he said. When the latest Mrs. Carter also turned up dead, some folks suspected 68-year-old ethridge Carter was not just unlucky in love. Police now say they will investigate all three deaths in light of what happened to Shirley Carter, who died Saturday of a gunshot to the head. Her husband insists she, too, committed suicide.

Dave Wisdom Harrod, Carter's attorney, called the deaths "an unfortunate, bad string of circumstances." Striking, sure, but not proof a wife killer is living in this retirement town 80 kilometres north of Little Rock. "We live in a small town, and if lightning were to strike the same tree three times, it would be the talk of the town," Harrod said.

Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) sided with its long-time foes in the Japan Communist Party (JCP) Friday, to denounce Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano's assertion that the Nanjing massacre was a hoax.

The entire incident demonstrates the great difficulty Japan has had turning a troubling page in its history.

Despite retraction, Nagano's remarks cause fury in Asia and at home

TOKYO (R) — Despite Japanese Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano's retraction Friday of remarks he made denying the Nanjing massacre, the incident has refreshed memories of Japan's militaristic past and hurt its image among Asian neighbours.

"What I said was inappropriate. I want to withdraw them," the former army general told a news conference.

Nagano, 71, said he would not step down for the time being but would wait for instructions from Prime Minister Tatsuo Hata, who personally reprimanded the justice minister and who is scheduled to return from a European tour Saturday.

Nagano said in an interview published earlier this week that he believed the Nanjing massacre was a "fabrication" that it was "wrong" to say the Pacific War was waged with the aim of aggression.

The remarks immediately

sparked angry reactions in many countries in the region, including China, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and Australia.

Nagano said the Nanjing massacre, in which up to 300,000 Chinese lost their lives following Japan's invasion in 1937, was an "unfortunate incident" using the standard euphemism for the massacre found in Japanese school textbooks.

Nagano's remarks raised doubts among Japan's neighbours about the sincerity of Tokyo's recent apology for atrocities committed by the Imperial army before and during World War II.

Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) sided with its long-time foes in the Japan Communist Party (JCP) Friday, to denounce Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano's assertion that the Nanjing massacre was a hoax.

But while the LDP described



A captured Khmer Rouge soldier squats in front of two government soldiers May 5, near the abandoned village of Sdao some 27km west of Battambang as scattered fighting continues in this northwest province. Another captured Khmer Rouge soldier was shot trying to escape and beheaded by angry soldiers (AFP photo).

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 U.S. jets collide off S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — Two U.S. Air Force fighters crashed into sea off South Korea's west coast after colliding in the air Friday, a U.S. military spokesman said. He said an F-16 from the 9th fighter wing at Kunsan Airbase in South Korea collided with an F-15 assigned to Kadena Airbase in Japan during a training mission. "One pilot was picked up, and a rescue team is searching for the other pilot," he said. He said the air force was investigating the cause of the collision.

14 killed as Indian train hits jeep

NEW DELHI (R) — Up to 14 people were killed when a train ploughed into a jeep on a level crossing in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, domestic news agencies said Friday. They said the people in the jeep were returning from a marriage function Thursday when they were hit on an unmanned crossing near Mahabubnagar, 80 kilometres southwest of the state capital Hyderabad. Up to 35 people were killed in a similar crash in Andhra Pradesh Monday, when a train slammed into a tractor and trailer carrying a wedding party.

MP admits killing gangster

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian member of parliament Sergei Skoroskin admitted killing a gangster who had been extorting money from him, in an interview in Friday's Moscow Times. He said a gang which last year forced him to hand over 30 million roubles (\$16,000) by threatening to kill him accused him again last Sunday near his home in Zarayk 160 kilometres from Moscow. He snatched a Kalashnikov assault rifle from one of the gang and shot dead another gangster who opened fire, Mr. Skoroskin told the paper in a telephone interview. An unidentified woman was killed in the shooting by one of the gang. Mr. Skoroskin, 33, who ran a food distribution company before his election in December, said he had immediately informed the police about the killing and was now, at home "protected by friends."

Kremlin denies claims of invalid referendum

MOSCOW (AFP) — Kremlin chief of staff Sergei Filatov dismissed Friday as an opposition-mounted "provocation" findings by a panel of experts claiming that last December's referendum on the constitution was not valid. Mr. Filatov, quoted by ITAR-TASS, said the findings showing that voter turnout did not reach the 50-per cent mark required to validate the referendum "smelled of a major provocation." The findings were compiled by the head of a presidential commission, Alexander Sobyanin, who said that 40.1 per cent of voters turned out in the referendum and not 54.8 per cent as claimed by the central electoral commission. Mr. Filatov said the commission "had nothing to do with the presidential administration" and that the methods used by the panel raised "serious doubts" as to their credibility.

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas Friday claimed major victories in northwest

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas Friday claimed major victories in Cambodia's far northwest but government officials denied the reports and said royal forces were preparing to launch a clean-up offensive in the area.

A Reuters news team in the area confirmed government forces held the two key highways crisscrossing the region but added the situation was fragile, with guerrillas digging in within 50 metres of the roads. Fighting has made sections impassable, they said.

"They control it but it's not safe," said one returning reporter, adding the situation was changing hour to hour.

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1994 9

Kentucky Derby kicks off today

Derby matches Holy Bull and Brocco

LOUISVILLE (R) — Sixteen years ago, in 1978, three brilliant battles between Affirmed and Alydar presented what was probably the finest six weeks in American horse racing history. Affirmed won each Triple Crown race with Alydar second every time.

Saturday's 120th running of the Kentucky Derby, the first Triple Crown race of the spring, takes place in a different climate, in an era where racing attendance is down and unhappiness rampant over drugs, fixed racing and a lack of stars.

Even so, this race has a real rivalry. It's East Coast versus Hollywood, speed versus Hollywood, slow breeding versus a regal bloodline.

Of course, there are other entrants besides rivals Holy Bull and Brocco in this year's \$500,000 added, Grade 1 race, but all the talk around Churchill Downs this week has been about the rivalry.

Holy Bull is the gritty front-runner trained and owned by Jimmy Croll, a 74-year-old horseman who has never won a Derby. Brocco is the professional racer owned by Albert Broccoli, the producer of 16 James Bond movies.

Holy Bull has won six of seven races, grabbing the lead off the mark in all but two starts, pulling away from classy fields in five of them. Brocco is four of six, a stalker who likes to hide in the pack and let the leader set the pace, then strike in the final furlong of the stretch.

Holy Bull lacks pedigree, with a seventh place by Grey Dawn in the 1973 Derby being the best showing by a relative. Brocco is related to three previous winners — Proud Clinton in 1965, Sunny's Halo in 1983 and Sunday Silence in 1989.

The other contenders have a chance. Anything can happen.

Stich gets angry in time

HAMBURG, Germany (AFP) — Top seed Michael Stich survived a tremendous battle with Carlos Costa to reach the German Open semi-finals here Friday.

Costa saved two match points before Stich, fired up by a disputed line call, won the Spaniard's serve for a 6-4, 6-7, 6-4 triumph and now plays Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov who beat him last month in the Monte Carlo Open.

Stich served for the match in the second and third sets. The Spaniard forced the second

into a tie-break he won 7-3 but could not repeat the trick in the third set.

A fifth double fault and disputed line call forced Stich against the wall and gave Costa the chance to serve for 5-5 but the German bounced back.

Both men played some marvelous tennis and Stich, especially, mixed aggression with some superb touch play.

However, he made twice as many unforced errors and Costa was able to claw his way back from 5-2 down in the final set to set up a nerve-jangling finish.

Jockey dies after accident

LONDON (R) — British jockey Steve Wood died Friday after an accident at Lingfield Park race track, clerk of the course Geoff Stuckles said. Wood had been taken to hospital with suspected broken ribs and lung problems. Two other jockeys were involved in the accident but they were not thought to be hurt.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAHAN HIRSCH

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USE YOUR WINNERS WISELY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
9 Q 10 9
7 K 10 5 3
5 Q K 10 9
4 J 2

WEST EAST
2 5 8 7 4 3 2
7 6 4 2

8 7 6 5 2 A
4 K Q 10 6 A 8 7 4 3

SOUTH
A K 6
A Q 9 8 7
J 4 3
9 5

The bidding:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 Pass

3 Pass 4 Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

We've often published hands

where counting can be the secret to landing the contract. It works equally well for the defense and will often guide defenders to how to defeat the contract.

North's jump to three hearts as a passed hand showed four-card support and a hand just short of an opening bid. It invited South to go

to game with anything but a dead minimum and South had enough to oblige.

West led the king of clubs. East encouraged with the eight. West continued the suit, but after taking two clubs and a diamond the defense ran out of steam.

Had East spent a moment counting the hand, the winning defense would have been obvious. West's lead was surely from the king-queen and taking those five points and adding eight for the two aces in hand would mean that East could not count for more than an extra jack or two from partner. The only real hope of defeating the contract, therefore, lay in scoring a diamond ruff.

That could be accomplished easily enough. East should have overtaken partner's king of clubs with the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and then returned a club to West's marked queen. It would take a rather dense defender not to realize that East had a singleton diamond and a return of that suit would have allowed East to score the setting trick with a ruff.

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Holy Bull draws No. 4 post position

LOUISVILLE (AP) — Holy Bull drew the No. 4 post position and was made the 8-5 early favourite for Saturday's Kentucky Derby as a field of 15 was entered Thursday for the first leg of the U.S. thoroughbred Triple Crown.

Track oddsmaker Mike Bataglia made Santa Anita Derby winner Brocco the second choice at 3-1, while the next choice was Tabasco Cat, trained by D. Wayne Lukas, at 6-1.

The field, in post position order, with odds and jockeys: Soul of the Matter, 20-1; Kent Desormeaux; Valiant Nature, 12-1; Laffit Pincay, Powis Castle, 30-1; Chris Antley; Holy Bull, 8-5; Mike Smith; Ulises, 30-1; Jorge Chavez; Mahogany Hall, 30-1; Gary Stevens; Smilin Singin Sam 37-1; Larry Melancon; Southern Rhythm, 15-1; Garret Gomez; Blumin Affair, 15-1; Jerry Bailey; Meadow Flight, 30-1; Shane Sellers, and Kandyly, 30-1; Craig Perret.

Post time is 5:30 p.m. (2130 GMT), and all starters will carry 126 pounds (57 kilograms). If all 15 go to post, the total purse will be \$888,800 with \$638,800 going to the winner.

Looking for a rabbit to stop favourite

LOUISVILLE (AP) — It will probably take about two-thirds of Saturday's Kentucky Derby to show whether Holy Bull will live up to his status as 8-5 favourite.

"If Holy Bull goes the half (mile) in 46 seconds and change, even 47, he'll be spending himself and we'll have a chance to run him down in the stretch," said Valiant Nature's trainer Ron McAnalley.

"If he goes slower, he'll have enough left to go wire to wire."

Holy Bull won his last two races wire-to-wire. Randy Winick, trainer of Brocco, said he also expected to be checking the time at the half-mile mark of the 1.25 mile race to see if the cannonball colt could be caught.

"If they run half a mile faster than 46 and four-fifths, then we'd have a good shot at catching him," Winick said. "But if the pace is slower, he'll keep his tactical speed, has to be there."

Campbell said post position would have a lot to do with it.

"We certainly don't want to drop too far out," Campbell said. "If we could make an easy lead, which is probably a ridiculous thing to expect, we'll take it. But if Holy Bull wants the lead, we don't have to take it."

Campbell went on to be around the finish.

Holy Bull would become the fourth grey in history to win the Kentucky Derby, after

deceased in 1962, Spectacular Bid in 1979 and Gato Del Sol in 1982.

There have been 21 wire-to-wire winners in the 119 derbies to date, the last one the filly winning Colours in 1988.

McAnalley said three possible candidates for the job were Go

ing Colours and Smilin Singin Sam.

What remained to be seen was who would take on the task of pushing Holy Bull early.

"We're not going to go after him," McAnalley said. "If we could, it would set it up for Brocco or Strode Creek."

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ing Colours and Smilin Singin Sam.

Which will next face the winner of the Denver-Seattle series, Stockton had 11 assists in the fourth quarter for the Jazz, who won the first-round play-off series three games to one and avoided a trip back to San Antonio.

"We wanted to win it here," said Stockton. "That was our best chance and our guys really stepped it up in the last quarter."

The Jazz won it in the fourth quarter by turning up the defense and calling Malone's number over and over on offense. "The Mailman" applied the crusher by hitting a rare 3-pointer with 42 seconds to go.

John Stockton added 13 points and 18 assists for Utah.

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In Denver, Lathono Ellis scored six of his 27 points in overtime to lift the Nuggets to another surprising win over the Sonics in game four of their western conference play-off series.

Bryant Stith also scored six points in overtime as Denver outscored the Sonics 12-3 in the extra session.

Robert Pack sent the game into overtime with a 3-pointer with 27 seconds left in the fourth quarter for an 82-82 tie.

Detlef Schrempf and Gary Payton scored 20 points apiece to lead the Sonics, who finished the regular season

with the best record in the NBA and the best in franchise history at 63-19.

The Nuggets had two chances to win in regulation.

Pack made a clean steal on Gary Payton off the inbounds pass after hitting the game-tying shot, but he missed badly from 16 feet out after losing the handle on a breakaway. Reggie Williams then intercepted the inbounds pass, but missed a 14-foot baseline jumper at the buzzer.

Ellis, who also grabbed 17

rebounds, scored the first basket of overtime on a 17-footer with 2:55 left and the Nuggets never relinquished the lead.

Jazz eliminate Spurs; Atlanta, Denver forced fifth games

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (R) — Karl Malone scored 34 points, including a crushing 22-foot jumper with 42 seconds remaining, as the Utah Jazz knocked the San Antonio Spurs out of the playoffs with a 95-90 triumph Thursday.

In other games, the Denver Nuggets, seeded last in the west, scored a 94-85 overtime win over the NBA-best Seattle SuperSonics to force a fifth and deciding game and the Atlanta Hawks, top seed in the east, staved off elimination and forced a fifth game by beating the bottom-seeded Miami Heat 103-89.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

AOHR elected administrative committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Amman branch of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) Friday elected a 10-person administrative body for a one-year term. The 10 are: Amin Shuaier, Hani Al Dahleh, Labib Kamhawi, Asma Khader, Abdul Jaber Abu Gharbieh, Omar Abdul Rafeb, Rajai Nafa'a, Salem Nahas, Walid Maraqah, and Tarawneh, and Fakhri Betbeisi.

Arafat agrees to drop 'president'

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat has agreed to drop the title "president of Palestine" when he enters the self-rule regions of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. According to a letter annexed to the Cairo accord on the launch of self-rule signed Wednesday, he will use the title "chairman (raes in Arabic) of the Palestinian Authority" to run Gaza and Jericho. The Palestinians have referred to Mr. Arafat as president of Palestine since a session of their parliament-in-exile in Algiers in 1988. But the letter allows the PLO chairman to use the Arabic title "raes" which also means president. Also in the letter from Mr. Arafat addressed to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a co-signatory of the accord, the PLO agrees to inform the Israeli government of the names of the Palestinian Authority. In Israel, the head of the government press office Uri Dromi on Thursday quoted Mr. Rabin as telling Mr. Arafat in Cairo to stop globe-trotting and "get prepared for serious things."

Four corridors to link Gaza and Jericho

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed on four land corridors across the Jewish state to link the Palestinian self-rule regions of Gaza and Jericho, an Israeli spokesman said Thursday. Colonel Ami Giuska, spokesman for the team negotiating with the PLO, said the "four protected passages" were existing Israeli roads. At least one of the corridors would be open to all residents of Gaza and the West Bank town, even if they had no permit to enter Israel. "If there are no major security problems, they will remain open," he was told in a press conference here. "Otherwise, only one will be available to the Palestinians." As for Palestinian leaders, the two sides have agreed they can use two helicopters and four light planes "registered in Israel or a country which has air links with Israel," Mr. Giuska said. All four of the land routes, starting from the Erez crossing in northern Gaza and passing through the southern Israeli town of Ashkelon, will avoid Jerusalem. They will be closed at night, as well as on three Israeli holidays. Palestinian motorists will carry cards on which the time of entry and departure from Israeli territory will be marked.

Italian bank fined for violating boycott rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Atlanta branch of a large Italian state bank has agreed to a \$475,000 fine for providing to Iraqi banks information about certain companies' trade relations with Israel, the government said Thursday. The Atlanta agency of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) agreed to the civil penalty without admitting or denying the alleged violation of U.S. rules directed against the Arab boycott of Israel, the Commerce Department announced. The announcement made no mention of the Atlanta court case in which BNL's Atlanta branch was accused of arranging \$5.5 billion in illegal loans to Iraq before the Gulf war. Its former manager, Christopher Driscoll, was sentenced last Dec. 1 to 37 months in prison on a guilty plea to three lesser charges after the government dropped parts of the indictment that could have involved BNL's Rome headquarters. The Commerce Department said BNL-Atlanta provided 93 items of information to Iraq banks regarding foreign companies' business relationships with Israel and companies known or believed to be blacklisted by Arab League countries. The companies were not named in the announcement. Commerce said the Atlanta bank also broke rules by failing to report 11 requests for boycott-related information.

Qatar offers gas to Israel 'on conditions'

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar is prepared to sell liquefied natural gas to Israel on condition that there is further progress in the Middle East peace process, Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jaber Al Thani said Thursday. He told Israeli and other journalists covering disarmament talks here that he had already raised the possibility with Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres at meetings in October in New York and in January in London. "No agreement has been reached on the subject. But if the peace process makes progress we see no hindrance," he said. Sheikh Hamad also said that given the same conditions he saw no bar to his visiting Israel, with which his country has no relations. But he said he had no further plans to meet Mr. Peres.

India protests Iranian remarks on Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India has protested remarks by the Iranian envoy here that New Delhi-based diplomats were denied free movement when they visited Kashmir last week, a foreign office spokesman said on Friday. Iranian Ambassador Reza Sheikh Attar was summoned to the Indian External Affairs Ministry Thursday to receive the protest, the spokesman said, dismissing the envoy's comments as "not consistent with the facts." The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Attar as saying that the 11 diplomats who went to Kashmir for four days from April 27 were not allowed to meet Muslim leaders and people, or travel to places like Sopore and Bijnor. Mr. Attar's remarks were "not consistent with the facts and contrary to the sentiments expressed by other ambassadors" who also went to the troubled state. They included envoys of three South American and eight Islamic countries. "On the contrary, they (the others) appreciated India's openness on Kashmir," the spokesman said, adding that the Iranian ambassador "was alone in making the complaints." At least 25 ambassadors from New Delhi have visited Kashmir in the past two months to study the situation in Kashmir.

Lebanon sentences 3 in 1976 murder

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese court has given life sentences in their absence to three men for the murder of the U.S. ambassador in Beirut in 1976, Al Nahar newspaper said on Friday. The three, all Lebanese who had links to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), were arrested for the murder during the country's 1975-90 civil war but were freed amid the lawlessness, it said. Ambassador Francis E. Meloy, Economic Counsellor Robert O. Waring and their Lebanese driver were seized at a roadblock on the Muslim side of the so-called green line, the confrontation line separating Muslim and Christian forces. A few hours later their bodies were found dumped on the Beirut sea front, each had been shot several times. The murder was excluded from a 1991 amnesty for war crimes by the Lebanese government. The three killers at large were named by Al Nahar as Mohammad Al Farkh, Toufic Farouk and Nameq Kamal. Lebanon has launched a crackdown against crime, making capital punishment mandatory for premeditated murder and introducing the death sentence for politically-motivated crimes.

Iran, South Africa to resume ties next week

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and South Africa have agreed to resume diplomatic relations from May 10, Tehran Radio said on Friday. Iran, which was South Africa's chief oil supplier before it cut diplomatic ties with Pretoria's white government in 1979, decided in January to reestablish relations after South Africa held its all-race elections. Tehran Radio said the date for resumption of ties was decided after talks between the South African Foreign Ministry and the Iranian interests section operating under the Swiss embassy in Pretoria.

PLO self-rule list excludes those who boycotted signing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The list of candidates for the Palestinian authority circulated by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the occupied territories Friday reflected a balance between local and foreign-based Palestinian leaders.

PLO chief Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed an agreement in Cairo on Wednesday which will introduce Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho within weeks.

The Palestinian authority will be responsible for all legislative, executive and judicial authorities in the autonomy.

The list obtained by the Associated Press Friday from sources close to the PLO named 13 Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and 11 living abroad.

The list is not final, but the balance it reflected seemed a compromise of earlier lists criticised as top-heavy with foreign-based Palestinians.

But PLO sources said the current list reflected Mr. Arafat's anger at being snubbed by local Palestinian leaders, who refused to attend the agreement's signing.

The list fails to name those who have played senior negotiating roles until now and the PLO sources said local Palestinian leaders were unhappy with it.

Notable absences include Hanan Ashrawi, the high-profile Palestinian spokeswoman, and Jericho leader Saeb Erekat, who led the Palestinian delegation to bilateral talks with Israel until the first PLO-Israel accord was signed in September.

Jordan, Egypt chalk out close cooperation

(Continued from page 1) civil war. He called on the Yemeni parties concerned to resort to dialogue to solve their problems.

On the inspection of ships bound to Aqaba, Dr. Sedki welcomed the latest developments to solve this problem, and voiced his country's support for Jordan in this respect.

Egyptian Palestinian relations, Dr. Sedki said, are good and have never been severed.

On the establishment of a Middle Eastern market, Dr. Sedki said it is a mere idea which has not so far crystallised. However, he stressed the need to contemplate future plans to cope with any possible developments.

He said there was no contradiction between the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) and a Middle Eastern market since the first is international while the second is regional.

Dr. Majali said the committee discussed this issue, and stressed the need for close coordination and joint studies with the Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians as well as the Egyptians to cope with any future developments.

Jordanian Palestinian relations, Dr. Majali said, are very special, unique and historical. He added that the level of coordination was not satisfactory given the unique relations between the Jordanians and Palestinians.

He noted that King Hussein on Thursday informed Palestinian President Yasser Arafat during a meeting held at the Royal Court that it was time for the various joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees to meet following the signature in Cairo of the Palestinian self-rule agreement.

The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee on Friday concluded its meetings here and signed the minutes of the meetings at the prime ministry.

In the minutes, signed by the two prime ministers, both sides stressed the important role both Jordan and Egypt can play in restoring Arab solidarity and crystallising a unified Arab stand towards the various issues.

They also stressed the need to maintain close coordination and consultation on various

Also missing were Haidar Abdul Shafi, a Gaza leader and Dr. Erekat's predecessor, and Elias Freij, the popular mayor of Bethlehem in the West Bank.

Palestinians in the occupied territories boycotted the agreement's signing in protest of the ceremony occurring while Jerusalem was effectively closed off to most residents of the occupied territories by Israeli closure orders.

"We must be sure that whatever agreement we reach contains the potential for success, whether it is signed in two days or two weeks," said Faisal Husseini, the PLO's West Bank leader who led the boycott.

Mr. Husseini, however, appears on the list as the official responsible for Jerusalem affairs.

Ibrahim Shaaban, a Jerusalem lawyer proposed for the housing portfolio, said he had heard about his nomination in the Palestinian media but had no official notice.

But Mr. Shaaban, who heads the Palestinian housing council, said he thought the list was a good one.

"You just can't appoint 200 members to this council to satisfy everyone," Mr. Shaaban said.

The following list identifies each candidate for the Palestinian authority, the current residence and proposed portfolio, if known. Some candidates will share portfolios.

1. Yasser Arafat — Tunis, head of the authority.
2. Ahmad Qureia — Tunis, economics; headed the Palestinian delegation to economic talks with Israel.
3. Nahid Shasha — Tunis, diplomatic relations.
4. Yasser Arafat — Amman; education.
5. Izzat Al Wazir — Amman; social affairs.
6. Samir Gashash — Tunis, no proposed portfolio.
7. Yasser Abed Rabbo — Tunis; information.
8. Naser Yousif — Tunis; police.
9. Abdallah Hmari — Tunis; no proposed portfolio.
10. Mohammed Zekri Nassarib — Amman; will head PLO affairs in Jordan.
11. Faisal Husseini — Jerusalem; Jerusalem affairs.
12. Zakaria Al Agha — Gaza; no proposed portfolio.
13. Jamil Taifi — Ramallah; civil affairs.
14. Abdul Aziz Haji — the West Bank; health.
15. Samir Abdush — Ramallah; infrastructure and development.
16. Muhammed Eshtaya — Nablus; infrastructure and development.
17. Hisham Abd El Razek — Gaza; no proposed portfolio.
18. Maher Mazzi — Nablus; no proposed portfolio.
19. Ibrahim Shaaban — Jerusalem; housing.
20. Javid Ghassan — Amman; finance.
21. Anton Samsour — Bethlehem; education.
22. Freih Abu Medien — Gaza; legal affairs.
23. Ahmad Beydoun Tamimi — Hebron; no proposed portfolio.
24. Ikrina Sabri — Jerusalem; religious affairs.

Palestinians sceptical

regional and international issues and welcomed the signing in Cairo on Wednesday of the Palestinian self-rule agreement as a step towards a just, comprehensive and lasting solution.

In the field of economic cooperation, the two sides agreed to form a task force entrusted with drawing up a joint mechanism for discussing regional and international issues of economic concern.

Both parties reviewed the status of the Egyptian-Jordanian Company for Investment and Development and agreed to offer the company all the facilities needed for its smooth operations.

The two sides agreed to take the necessary actions to implement the commercial protocol concluded in September 1992. They also called on a joint trade committee to meet within two months to agree on items exempted completely or partly from each other's customs duties and to set up a coordination committee grouping representatives of the private sector in both countries.

The two sides underlined the need to maintain coordination and cooperation in the field of financial legislation. They called for reintroducing the "trip ticket" regulation for private cars crossing from either country.

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The two sides agreed to exchange expertise and to hold consultations on planning, to unify the terms used in planning and to carry out joint studies in the area of economic planning.

The two sides agreed to embark on the necessary steps to support industrial integration, particularly in the field of electronic and engineering industries, and to unify the specifications and metrology followed in both countries.

He also stressed the importance of economic cooperation and coordination in the field of financial legislation. They called for reintroducing the "trip ticket" regulation for private cars crossing from either country.

The two sides agreed to exchange expertise and findings of research on agricultural projects, control of epidemics and agricultural pests. They also agreed to exchange agricultural

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